

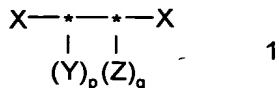
Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Original) A dispersant which comprises a polyamine or polyimine backbone chain containing side chains of two or more different types of polyester chain wherein at least one type of polyester chain is derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids all of which contain a C₁₋₈-alkylene group or lactone thereof and at least one other type of polyester chain derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids wherein at least one of the hydroxy carboxylic acids contains a C₈₋₃₀-alkylene or C₈₋₃₀-alkenylene chain or lactone thereof, including salts of such dispersants.
2. (Original) A dispersant as claimed in claim 1 which contains side chains from two different types of polyester chain.
3. (Previously presented) A dispersant as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polyester chain containing C₁₋₆-alkylene groups is derivable from optionally alkyl substituted ϵ -caprolactone and δ -valerolactone.
4. (Previously presented) A dispersant as claimed in claim 1 wherein the C₈₋₃₀-alkenylene chain is derivable from ricinoleic acid.
5. (Previously presented) A dispersant as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polyester chains are attached to the polyamine or polyimine backbone via amide and/or salt linkages.
6. (Previously presented) A dispersant as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polyimine is poly (C₂₋₆-alkyleneimine).
7. (Original) A dispersant as claimed in claim 6 wherein the polyimine is polyethyleneimine.

8. (Previously presented) A dispersant as claimed in claim 1 wherein the number average molecular weight of the polyamine or polyimine is from 500 to 600,000.

9. (Currently amended) A dispersant as claimed in claim 2 which is represented by formula 1



wherein

$X-\star-\star-X$ represents the polyamine or polyimine backbone polymer;

Y is the residue of a polyester chain which is derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids all of which contain a C₁₋₆-alkylene group or lactones thereof;

Z is the residue of a polyester chain which is derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids at least one of which contains a C₈₋₃₀-alkylene or C₈₋₃₀-alkenylene group or acetones lactones thereof;

p and q are integers; and

(p + q) is from 2 to 2000.

10. (Currently amended) A dispersant as claimed in claim 9 wherein the ~~molar~~ ratio of p to q is from 1:10 to 10:1.

11. (Currently amended) A dispersant as claimed in claim 9 wherein the ~~molar~~ ratio of p to q is from 1:1 to 5:1.

12. (Previously presented) A dispersant as claimed in claim 9 wherein Y is the residue of a polyester chain derivable from lauric acid, ϵ -caprolactone and δ -valerolactone.

13. (Original) A dispersant as claimed in claim 12 wherein the molar ratio of ϵ -caprolactone to δ -valerolactone is from 2:1 to 6:1.

14. (Previously presented) A dispersant as claimed in claim 9 wherein Z is the residue of poly(ricinoleic acid).
15. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a particulate solid and a dispersant as claimed in claim 1.
16. (Previously presented) A composition comprising an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in claim 1.
17. (Previously presented) A dispersion comprising a particulate solid, an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in claim 1.
18. (Previously presented) A millbase comprising a particulate solid, a film-forming resin, an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in claim 1.
19. (Previously presented) A paint or printing ink comprising a particulate solid, a film-forming resin, an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in claim 1.